CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) A method for stabilizing a tissue for implanting an occlusion device in a patient, comprising the steps of:

introducing into a heart of a patient a delivery member comprising at least a first flexible member, said first flexible member comprising a first end portion and a second free end portion;

introducing said second free end portion of said first flexible member through the opening of a patent foramen ovale by entering the opening of the patent foramen ovale from the right atrial side, passing through the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale and exiting the opening of the patent foramen ovale on the left atrial side prior to introducing a hole through a septum primum;

contacting said second free end portion with a left atrial side of the tissue of said septum primum;

introducing a hole through said septum primum from the right atrial side of the septum primum to the left atrial side of the septum primum, and simultaneously biasing said second free end portion in contact with the tissue of said septum primum to minimize movement of said septum primum;

withdrawing said second free end portion of said flexible member from said left atrial side prior to introducing an occlusion device for occluding said patent foramen ovale; and

introducing the occlusion device for occluding said patent foramen ovale through said hole in said septum primum.

32-33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the occlusion device is selected from the group consisting of a septal occluder, suture, staple, and adhesive.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of introducing an apparatus for joining tissue.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the apparatus for joining tissue is a tissue welding apparatus.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for stabilizing a tissue for implanting an occlusion device in a patient, comprising the steps of:

introducing into the heart of a patient a delivery member for delivering a plurality of hexagonally shaped flexible members;

introducing at least one of said hexagonally shaped flexible members through the opening of a patent foramen ovale by entering the opening of the patent foramen ovale from the right atrial side, passing through the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale and

exiting the opening of the patent foramen ovale on the left atrial side prior to introducing a hole through a septum primum;

contacting the at least one of said hexagonally shaped flexible members with the septum primum on the left atrial side;

introducing a hole through said septum primum from the right atrial side of the septum primum to the left atrial side of the septum primum, and simultaneously biasing said second free end portion in contact with the tissue of said septum primum to minimize movement of said septum primum;

withdrawing the at least one of said hexagonally shaped flexible member from the left atrial side prior to introducing an occlusion device for occluding said patent foramen ovale;

withdrawing said delivery member including said plurality of hexagonally shaped flexible members from the heart; and

introducing the occlusion device for occluding said patent foramen ovale through said hole in said septum primum.

38-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the occlusion device is selected from the group consisting of a septal occluder, suture, staple, and adhesive.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of introducing an apparatus for joining tissue.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the apparatus for joining tissue is a tissue welding apparatus.

43-59. (Canceled).

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of placing said first end portion of said first flexible member on a right atrial side of the septum primum.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said delivery member further comprises a second flexible member, said second flexible member having a first end portion and a second free end portion, and wherein said method further comprises the step of contacting said second free end portion of said second flexible member with the left atrial side of the septum primum.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of placing said first end portion of said second flexible member on a right atrial side of the septum primum.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the flexible member is spiral shaped.

64. (Canceled).